



# The National Demonstration Program for Citizen-Soldier Support:

**Building Bridges to Communities, Strengthening Families**

## Progress Report

March 2006



*Coordinated by: the University of  
North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

First Year Contributing Partners:

NC State, UNC-Charlotte, East Carolina, UNC-Greensboro, Duke University, UNC-TV,  
Virginia Tech, & Bryn Mawr College

# The CSSP Mission:

- ★ **Mobilize local civilian community agencies and organizations to support the readiness and mobilization needs of our citizen soldiers and their family members**

*Our "Citizen Soldiers" are first and foremost citizens  
-- they are members of their civilian community!  
-- they may be the teacher, plumber, policeman,  
barber, nurse or lawyer who live next door!*



# The CSSP Goals:

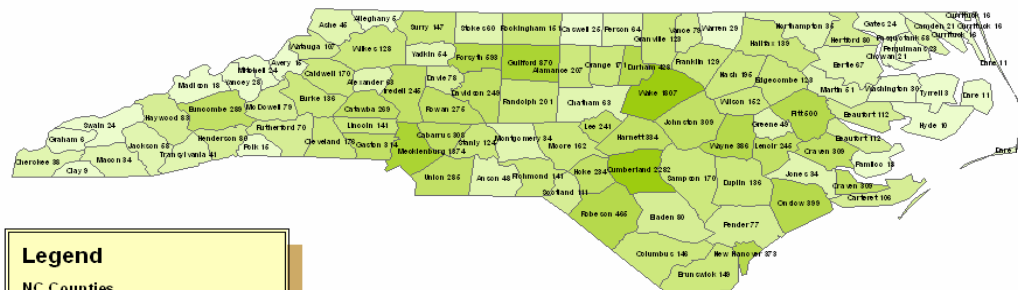
- ★ Ensure that local community agencies and organizations:
  - ★ understand the needs of Citizen Soldiers and their families,
  - ★ recognize the opportunities to provide services,
  - ★ offer targeted services for citizen soldiers and for the family members who share in this service and sacrifice

***We have demonstrated in North Carolina that community agencies are interested and willing to offer support – what they often lack are ideas and opportunities to connect with these families***



# Where NC Reserve Component Families Reside:

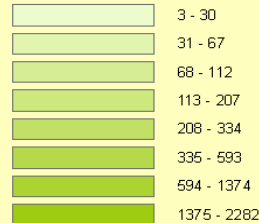
## Estimated RC Totals



### Legend

#### NC Counties

#### Total Estimated RC



RC members and families are dispersed across the state

Nationally – many service members reside far from active component military installations

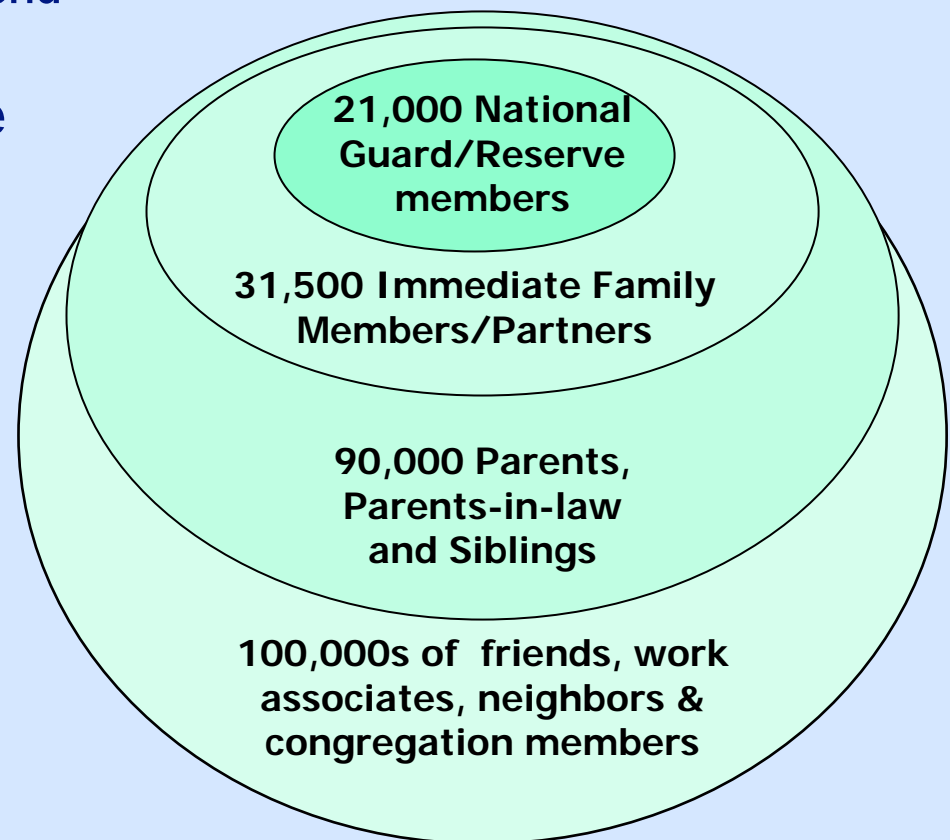


**Military members and families reside in each of North Carolina's 100 counties. The darker colors represent the density of RC members**

# The Effects of Mobilizations (NC):

The effects of mobilization extend beyond immediate family and friends to many throughout the community

Many effects (e.g., PTSD, substance abuse, divorce) are not seen until *AFTER* the service member returns home – Our civilian communities inherit the long term consequences associated with military service!



*Remember the "pebble in the pond"*

# The RC Family Support System

Local Civilian  
Support

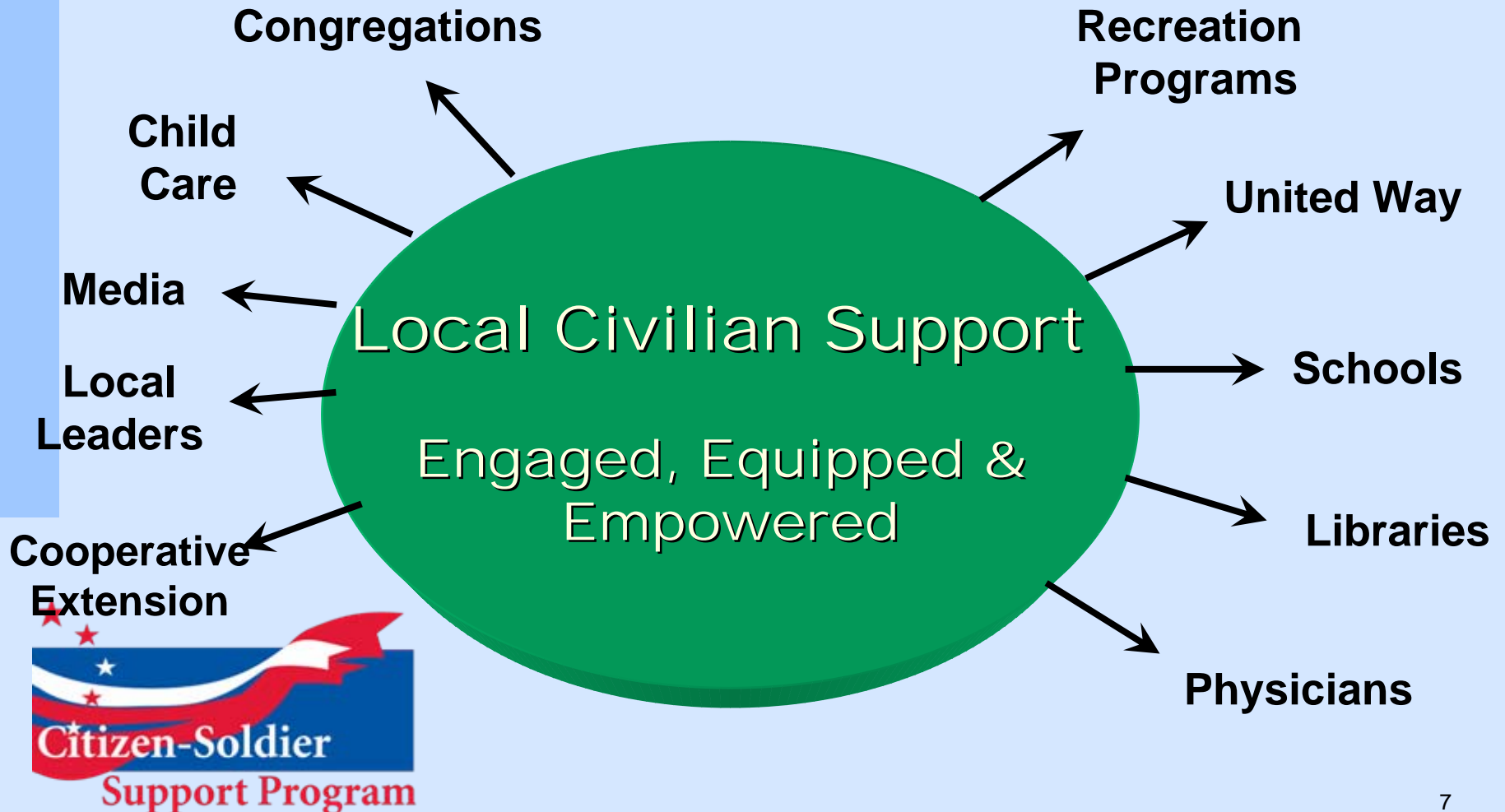
DoD Family  
Support

Informal  
Family Support

National Guard /  
Reserve Family  
Support



# The CSSP Community Strategy





# Executing the CSSP Strategy:

***Making Aware:*** Inform local civilian organizations and their state counterparts about the needs of citizen soldiers and their families and how they can help.

***Informing:*** Contact each organization in person to see what specifically they can do to support the NG & RC families in their own communities.

***Planning:*** Assist organizations in planning services that specifically help military personnel and families prepare for and adjust during and after a mobilization and deployment.

***Connecting:*** Monitor services and programs targeting citizen soldiers and families and help connect these services to the military units and people who need them.

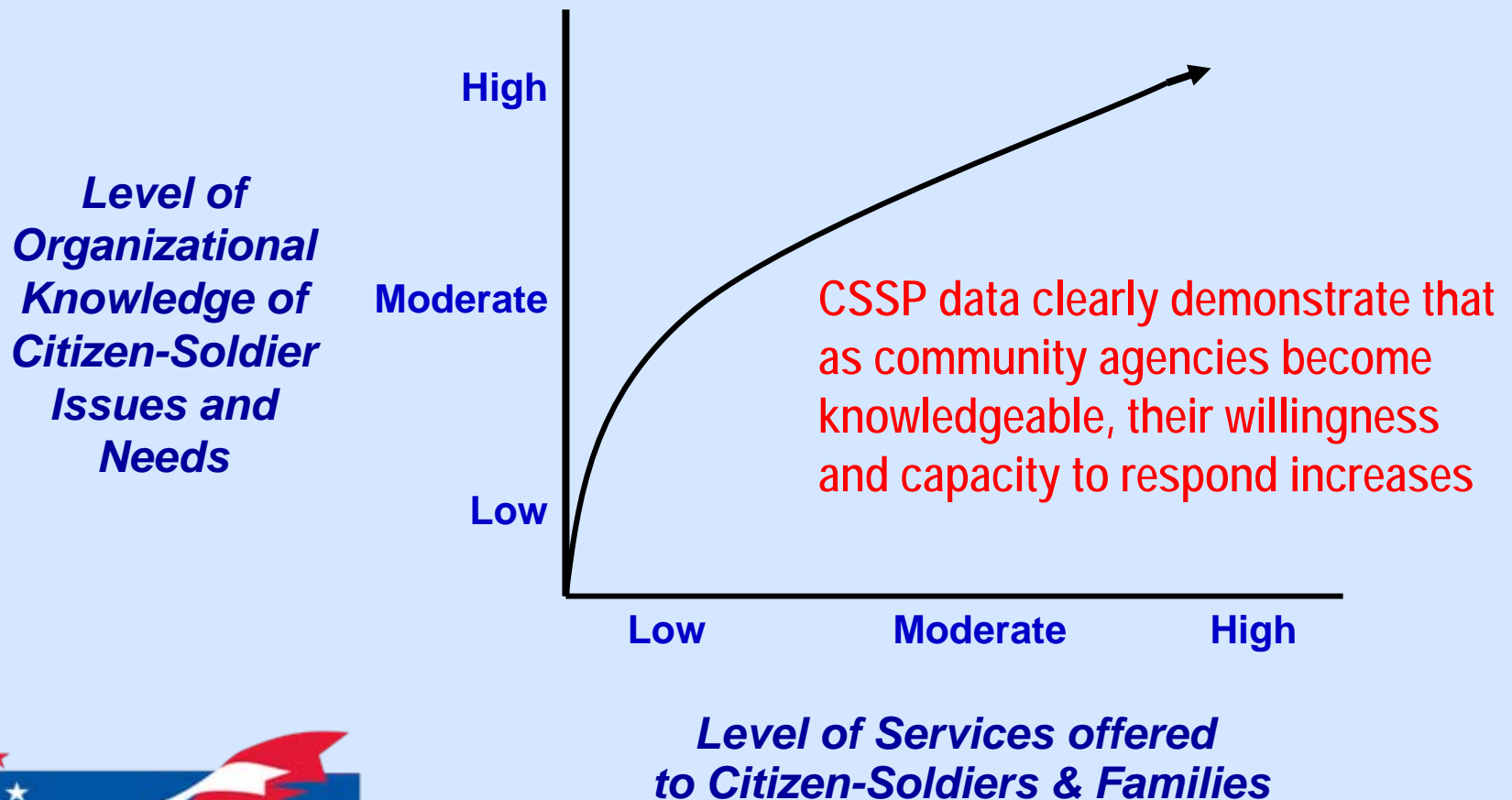
Our Subject Matter Specialists provide the "*how to*" and develop community support "tools"

Our Community Specialists are "*arms & legs*" in the community and serve as "*bridge builders*" to families





# The CSSP Path to Community Mobilization and Services



# CSSP First Year Achievements: Summary

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- ☑ Engaged civilian community programs in all 100 NC counties
- ☑ Dramatically increased the number and quality of civilian services and programs reaching out to citizen soldiers and their families
- ☑ Provided briefings and mobilization support materials to families that provide details on how their civilian community can support them
- ☑ Demonstrated that civilian community services can assist families before, during and after mobilizations and deployments
- ☑ Connected military families to local support services that can improve their quality of life



**Our communities do care!**

# CSSP First Year Achievements: Examples

Over the past year, *Ruth Ann Copley*, Davidson County Librarian, has taken concrete steps to meet the needs of Citizen Soldier families in her community. Ms. Copley has stocked each of her six branches and the county bookmobile with 18 different children's books with military themes. In addition, each branch now carries a CD-Rom that includes a listing of military resources and a deployment handbook. Current and future activities include a story hour for children, video recording sessions so community members can send messages to loved ones overseas, and e-mail tutorial workshops. *Similar plans are developing in Orange, Person and Caswell counties.*

Submitted by Roman Bowles, CSSP Central CPL



# CSSP First Year Achievements: Examples

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The CSSP Faith Community Team held a Seminar at an Episcopal congregation and highlighted the many unique challenges faced by military families and ways faith communities might provide needed support. The meeting was a collaboration with the local National Guard Family Assistance Center representative (FAC). After the presentation, the FAC described specific local opportunities for service. In response, the participants (36 attendees) came together to offer support for a young military family with a two-year-old child and a newborn in intensive care. The critical needs were discussed and a plan was formulated to provide child care, hot meals, and supportive phone calls.



# CSSP Status & Plans:

- ★ Completing first year of the NC demonstration project
- ★ New initiatives underway:
  - ★ a partnership with the National Guard Bureau to promote civilian community mobilization
  - ★ an affordable, state-wide, community mobilization model operating within the NC National Guard
- ★ Initiatives being planned:
  - ★ a *National Center* to provide subject matter expertise, training, and technical assistance to the nation – continued reliance on NC as the national site to develop and promote best practices.



# Questions & Comments:



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